

To: Mr. Wootten
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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



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Borsick, PD, Monday morning

Kirkwood, SUN PRESS, (via
phone) 3/30/67

Hanging in Gallery 8 with the Rembrandt TITUS PORTRAIT on loan from the Norton Simon Foundation in Los Angeles, will be the following three Rembrandt paintings owned by The Cleveland Museum of Art:

1) PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG STUDENT is a 1950 gift of The Hanna Fund, formerly from various collections including that of Otto H. Kahn who considered this portrait his most treasured possession. Done in 1657, it is one of Rembrandt's finest portraits, penetrating the character of the sitter with gentleness and creating a quiet, pondering mood.

2) The 1635 PORTRAIT OF A LADY is an early work. It displays the chiaroscuro originated by Rembrandt and foreshadows his later masterly achievements in the depiction of both likeness and personality. The Museum received it in 1944 from the Cleveland collection of Elisabeth Severance Prentiss.

3) PORTRAIT OF A YOUTH from the 1936 bequest of John L. Severance, is the earliest Rembrandt painting the Museum owns. Done in 1632, it reveals the artist's meticulous craftsmanship and, also, foreshadows the uniqueness of expression his genius was to develop.

Borsick + Wootten got photos of Titus

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn, Dutch, 1606-1669

Portrait of the Artist's Son Titus

Oil on canvas, 65 x 56 cm (25-5/8 x 22-1/16 inches)

Painted ca. 1653/54

On loan from the Norton Simon Foundation, Los Angeles

Titus is depicted standing, half-length, seen in full face with fair curls and rosy cheeks. He wears a beret of brown velvet with red and white plumes and a grey-brown jacket with a white collar and yellow sash. He is the only surviving child from Rembrandt's first marriage to Saskia van Ulenburgh who died barely 30 years of age. (Titus, too, died young. He was born in 1641 and died in 1668, one year before his father). Titus studied painting under his father but later gave it up to become an art dealer.

The face seems too young for the date of the painting which has been generally agreed upon to be 1653/54 for stylistic reasons. This would make Titus a twelve to thirteen year old boy.

The painting was bought in Holland in the early 19th century by Lord Spencer at Althorp, Northamptonshire where it remained until 1915. It then joined the famous collection of Sir Herbert Cook at Doughty House, Richmond near London which also housed the Museum's recently acquired Velazquez portrait of the Jester Calabazas. Titus was sold at the same auction at Christie's, London, to the Norton Simon Foundation in March 1965 ^{at which} when the Calabazas was sold to the C.M.A.

When the Norton Simon Foundation's President, Mr. Simon, bought the picture he stipulated that because of the great beauty and universal appeal of the Titus the painting should be exhibited in the most favorable circumstances for the

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Titus

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widest possible public enjoyment. The painting therefore was initially shown at the National Gallery in Washington and thereafter was incorporated in the exhibition The Age of Rembrandt which, under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of The Netherlands and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, toured the United States/ during this winter. It went to the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, The Toledo Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, whereafter the Cleveland public will have a chance to see the Titus by Rembrandt on display in Gallery VIII for a period of ,.....6 months..... beginning.....Tuesday. March 28. 1967

There are a number of other portraits of Titus (or presumed to be of him). Closest in date to the one in the Norton Simon Foundation is the beautiful version in the Museum Boymans van Beuningen in Rotterdam, dated 1655, the one in the B. Altman Collection in New York also dating from 1655, another one of ca. 1656 in the Museum in Vienna and one in the Wallace Museum in London of 1657.

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